GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:818
ANSWERED ON:04.03.2008
SETTING UP OF LABORATORIES
Mahato Shri Narahari

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is planning to set-up more laboratories on the line of the National Brain Research Centre in Manesar, Gurgaon;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether the research work of examining the pharmacological basis of the action of medicinal plants used in Ayurveda to treat dementia, would be further strengthened and patented for mass production; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir. The Department of Biotechnology is planning to establish few more laboratories such as Translational Health Science & Technology Institute and UNESCO centre at Faridabad,Haryana, Stem Cell Research Institute at Bangalore, Karnataka and also Punjab Agri Cluster at Mohali,Punjab. Further the National Brain Research Centre is planning to establish satellite centres which could be set up in different parts of the country to undertake advanced research in the area of neuroscience.

(c) & (d) The National Brain Research Centre is carrying out research work on using traditional systems of medicine such as Ayurveda for discovering newer cures for Alzheimer's disease. The ongoing experiments have to be followed up by pre-clinical toxicology testing in animals after which clinical trials can be initiated to determine the efficacy in patient population. The patenting of the extract, which is effective in animal models of Alzheimer's disease is in progress. A Memorandum of Understanding is to be signed with collaborating institutions before the patenting process can be completed and this is currently being worked out.